

Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, February 7, 1843, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, February 7, 1843.

Private.

My dear sir, Your very friendly letter of the 22nd ultimo I have just received, read with attention, noted its contents, and am happy to learn that you have ended your dispute with Mr. Kendall, unless driven to it in self defence. I do hope Mr. Kendall will have more prudence, than to disturb this matter any further, as it would injure you both, and Mr. Kendall more than it could you. I was in hopes, that Mr. Kendall would have, on the receipt of my letter sought a personal interview with you, 0223 199 and in a calm manner, withdrew his injurious reflections, and peace and friendship restored between you. There are evil spirits at work secretly to put down the Globe, and whatever pretext may be held forth the real secrete cause is, that the Globe has sustained me; and Mr. VanBuren, carrying out the same principle. I see some of the Democratic papers have broke ground against the Globe on the pretext, that you have assailed unjustly Governor Porter 1 — this is the pretext, but hypocrisy lies beneath. It is really your support of Mr. Van Buren, when other candidates for the Presidency are preferred to VanBuren; but in reality it is to divide the republican party, and if possible, put down the Globe and if a public quarrel in the News papers should break out between you and Kendal, it would be used to divide the democracy, and put down your paper, or to injure it. I sincerely regret the imprudence of Mr. Kendall, that as far as I can see, give rise to the bad feelings and quarrel between you. I hope it may terminate where it is, and sleep forever.

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1 Of Pennsylvania.

Do not my dear friend, mistake me—altho friendly to Mr. Kendall, I am your friend, and I would be the last man on earth, that would say to you when assailed not to defend yourself. Your character is the goodly heritage of your dear children, and whenever assailed regardless of consequence defend it. But I do know that it is the great wish of Mr. VanBuren and all friends that your quarrell and Mr. Kendalls should cease, because all your friends do know that the opposition will endeavour to make capital of it, and you know how much pleasure it would give them to cripple your paper. When I see you at the Hermitage in march or early in april should I live, I have much to say to you, more than I am able to write. One thing I have to say that your real friends, the real democracy will never abandon you. I look forward with sanguine hopes, that the next congress will elect you printer to both Houses. I then can depart in peace.

I have just read in the Globe of the 24th ult. the attack of that scamp Botts upon me, basing his slander upon a statement made by Mr. Kendall in the democratic review. I have made a reply to mr. Botts, to put to rest that calumny that I had received the full amount of the fine from the ladies in Neworleans. I have sent it thro Mr. Kendall for the Globe that he may with it, correct the error he has committed, believing this was due to him from the friendship so long subsisting between us, and I inclose to you, a copy, not precisely a literal coopy but with the exception of a few words changed, it is so. Should Mr. Kendall not correct his statement in the Democratic review, which I hope he will promptly and hand my reply to Botts with it, then I wish you to give place for it in the Globe, correcting the phraseology, and altering it, or abreviate it, if you think any principle laid down is untainable. The principles I think are sound—they are such as from the danger that threatened the republic, I thought as did all the patriotic citizens, its salvation and defence required; and I think my reply to the vain scamp and blackguard Botts, is deserved, and will have some good effect to 0224 200 prevent hereafter the slander by members of congress, and there abuse, the scamp Botts deserves to be made to feel. 2

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I thank you for the notice you took of his statement in the Globe of the 24th ultimo. you know you have my gratitude and lasting friendship. we all salute you and yours with best wishes

2 Blair's reply of Feb. 18, post , shows why he did not publish Jackson's letter.